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PALEONTOLOGY AS A MORPHOLOGICAL DISCIPLINE.*

THE day has forever gone by when any one mind, however profound and comprehensive, can take all knowledge for its province. Increase of knowledge, like advance

*A lecture given at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Wood's Holl, printed in advance of its publication in the Lectures of the Marine Biological Laboratory by permission of the Director, Prof. Whitman.

of civilization, necessarily brings with it a division of labor, and each of the great branches of science becomes more and more minutely divided and subdivided for the purposes of investigation. Such subdivision greatly enhances the efficiency of the individual worker, enabling him to concentrate his attention upon some definite problem of more or less limited scope, and, so far, it is advantageous. On the other hand, like most human devices, it has its drawbacks, and what is gained in one direction is apt to be lost in another. One great and growing evil is the subdivision of *knowledge* which accompanies specialization of research. The worker finds the greatest difficulty in keeping abreast of all that is being accomplished by fellow laborers in his own field; how, then, shall he find time to learn anything of the work in other fields? Not to do so involves the penalty of such a narrowness of view as will inevitably lessen the value of his own work, because deductions drawn legitimately enough from a single line of investigation often appear absurd when tested by a wider range of facts. Many a blunder might be avoided, were the worker's vision not so strictly limited by the boundaries of his own speciality.

The narrowing effects of this subdivision of knowledge result in a more or less marked loss of sympathy and mutual understanding between the representatives of the different branches of the same science. To